

MUSCATATUCK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 1966-2016



Celebrating 50 Years of Conservation



Foreword

As long as I can remember, my husband, Charles E. Scheffe, envisioned a National Wildlife Refuge in Indiana. He was a Hoosier boy, born and bred, and knew just where such a refuge should be located...in beautiful Southern Indiana.

Our family was living in Minneapolis, Minnesota where Charley was employed by the Department of Interior. It was there that he unrolled a map on our kitchen table and drew the boundary of the proposed refuge.

Jim Endicott was a good friend who lived in Seymour and was gung-ho on the idea of a National Wildlife Refuge in Indiana. And so the two men began writing letters to public officials and people of influence pushing the refuge idea and asking for their support. Suffice it to say that many letters were sent and received as well as months of waiting for any encouragement. The two men did not give up. Finally, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission gave its consent and Indiana had its first National Wildlife Refuge.

When development was complete, the public responded by walking the trails, bird watching through the special window at the Visitor Center, and shopping at the bookstore. Teachers brought their students to the refuge where it was reported that some of the “city children” had no experience in “the country”. One kindergarten boy took his teacher’s hand and looking up into her face remarked, “This is the most beautiful place I’ve ever been in”.

Those few words made all efforts to establish the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge a worthwhile endeavor.

Lois M. Scheffe, August 12, 2016

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We are glad you are here!

Muscatatuck is Indiana's oldest, and best known, National Wildlife Refuge. Although a small oasis of wild land and water (only 7,804 acres in size), it is full of natural treasures. The refuge is visited by approximately 172,000 people each year from all over the country, and the world. We hope you enjoy your visit to this special place, either by finding what you are looking for, or in the unexpected...

Muscatatuck is one of a system of over 555 national wildlife refuges managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The refuge mission is to restore, preserve, and manage a mix of forest, wetland, and grassland habitat for fish, wildlife, and people.

While refuge management focuses on providing habitat for migratory birds, the refuge is also a great place for people. There are many opportunities at Muscatatuck for people of all ages to observe wildlife, go fishing and hunting, do wildlife photography, and learn about wildlife and the natural environment.

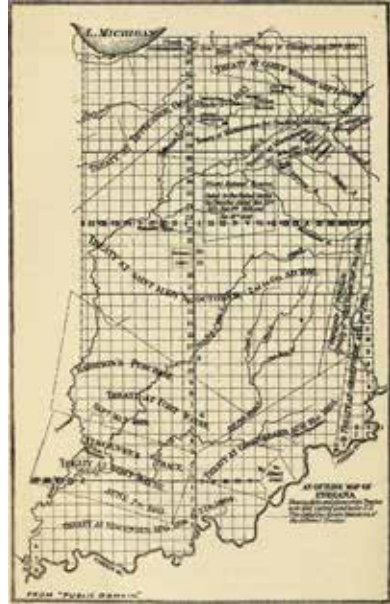
The Refuge Visitor Center is the primary source of information about the refuge but there is also a Facebook page and a website. Events are scheduled throughout the year, and there are lots of volunteer opportunities that allow people to get involved with refuge projects.

Visitors can become members of the Friends group, the Muscatatuck Wildlife Society, come to the scheduled volunteer work days, and/or assist with on-going projects including seed collection, bird counts, wildflower plot maintenance, and recreation area cleanup.

We hope you enjoy your time at Muscatatuck!

Early History

The area that is now Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge has always been an area of poorly drained soil and abundant springs. The refuge name means “Land of the Winding Waters,” which historically reflects the topography of the area. Mutton and Storm Creeks have always flowed into the flood-prone Muscatatuck River, joining together in the area known as the Moss Lake Swamp.



Notes from an early land surveyor, written in November of 1806, described section 26 on the west side of the refuge in this way...“this mile is all swamp...it is part brushy and part timbered with maple, ash, elm, and gum. The soil is black mud.”



Early History

Wetlands attracted wildlife to the area, and also attracted people. Native American tribes including the Piankeshaws, the Wyandotte, Shawnees and the Delawares once hunted and fished the area on a seasonal basis. They made temporary campsites as they wandered a wide portion of southern Indiana, following the animals.

The Native Americans shared the forested wetlands with black bear, elk, deer, turkey, gray wolves, and an abundance of birds that included passenger pigeons.

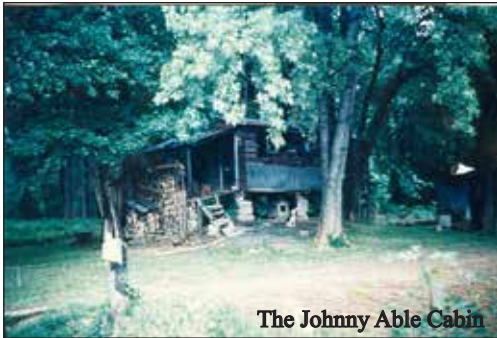
The first European settler, named Ketchum, arrived in the area around 1813. Jackson County was organized in 1816, the same year Indiana became a state.



Early History

Samuel Stanfield owned land here in 1820, then William Hunt in 1833, followed by George Richart in 1837. Other early families included the Myers, Ruddicks, Bollingers, Boxmans, Pfaffenbergers, Nichters, and McDonalds, among others. The first village in the area was Newry on the Muscatatuck River, near the present Kriete's Corner. Newry was the closest grist mill for area farmers and had a post office by 1847. By the late 1800s, farmers were established throughout what is now the refuge.

Around 1900, Mutton and Storm Creek were combined to try to control flooding. By the mid 1900's almost all of the forested land had been logged and converted to farms, and mountains of drainage tile had been placed in wet fields.



The Johnny Able Cabin

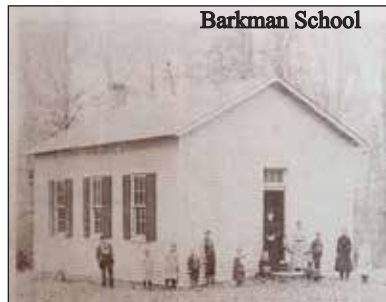


The Bob Lewis Cabin

Early History

By the 1940s, the deer and turkey were gone, but the Moss Lake swamp and the flood-prone creeks still remained. Almost all of the landowners were farmers and many had livestock. The land was difficult to farm. In spite of the best efforts of those that lived here, flooding was a perennial problem and farmers frequently lost their crops.

Over time, there would be schools, cemeteries, sawmills, a cannery, a telephone company, stills, and even a bootleggers trail along the Muscatatuck River during prohibition.



Land Owners During Acquisition Period of Refuge

Property on Map Noted by Number with Family Name

- 10 Carl Myers
- 11 May Rich
- 12 Raymond D Tichy
- 15 Clara Lentz, et. al.
- 16 Edward C. Sandage
- 17 George Highbaugh
- 18 Elwood Mitchell
- 19 Sadie E. Stout, et. al.
- 20 Orel W. Johnson
- 21 Wilfred Nichter
- 23 Dale McDonald
- 24 Paul Zech
- 25 Naomi Ruth Acton
- 26 Richard L. Bollinger
- 27 Harold G. Taskey
- 28 Volney Carter
- 29 Edgar H. Hemmer et. al.
- 30 Donald M. Bollinger
- 31 Elmer J. Boxman
- 32 Carl J. Nobbe
- 33 Arthur Olinger
- 34 Harlan E. Boxman
- 35 William G. Pfaffenberger
- 35a Richard Pfaffenberger



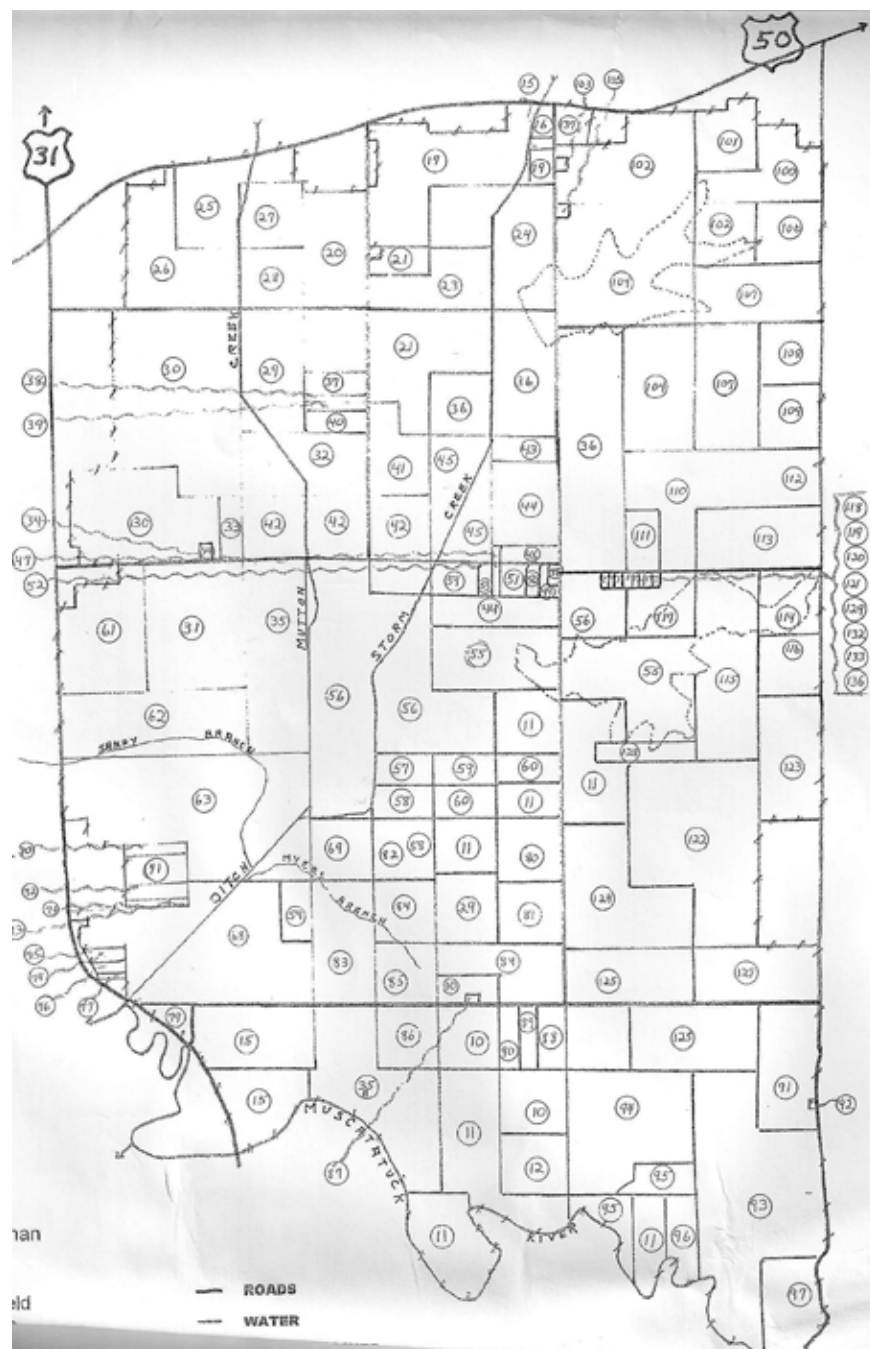
Myers Family

Memories from resident Ray Vaughn. He attended Hayden High school and graduated in 1958.

His neighbors were Walter Stanfield, who raised watermelons, the Barkmans, including Turkey John Barkman, and Carl Myers.

Of Myers, he said, “*he was an eccentric one. He had me watch his tame blackberries when he left in May. When I went to check on them, I saw an actual fist fight break out over Myers’ peaches and they were green peaches, green peaches aren’t worth anything!*”

Land Owners...



Land Owners During Acquisition Period of Refuge

- 36 Wililam M. Hunt
- 37 Oren R. Shade
- 38 Jesse Coryea
- 39 James Lee
- 40 Jacob C. Grabill
- 41 Leabert W. Bowman
- 42 David Monroe
- 43 Carl Smith
- 44 Louise S. Stanfield
- 45 Dale H. Klakamp
- 46 Frank L. Owens
- 47 Frank Jaynes
- 48 Allen E. Carpenter
- 49 Gerald A. Hauersperger
- 50 K.D. Ferris
- 51 Curtis Elmore
- 52 Eugene Lietz
- 53 Donald R. Lynch
- 54 Ira L. Koerner
- 55 Walter Stanfield est.
- 56 Robert E. Stanfield
- 57 William O. Banks
- 58 George O. Banks
- 59 Northalena Vogel et. al.
- 60 Eva C. Sage et. al.



Robert and Pauline Stanfield



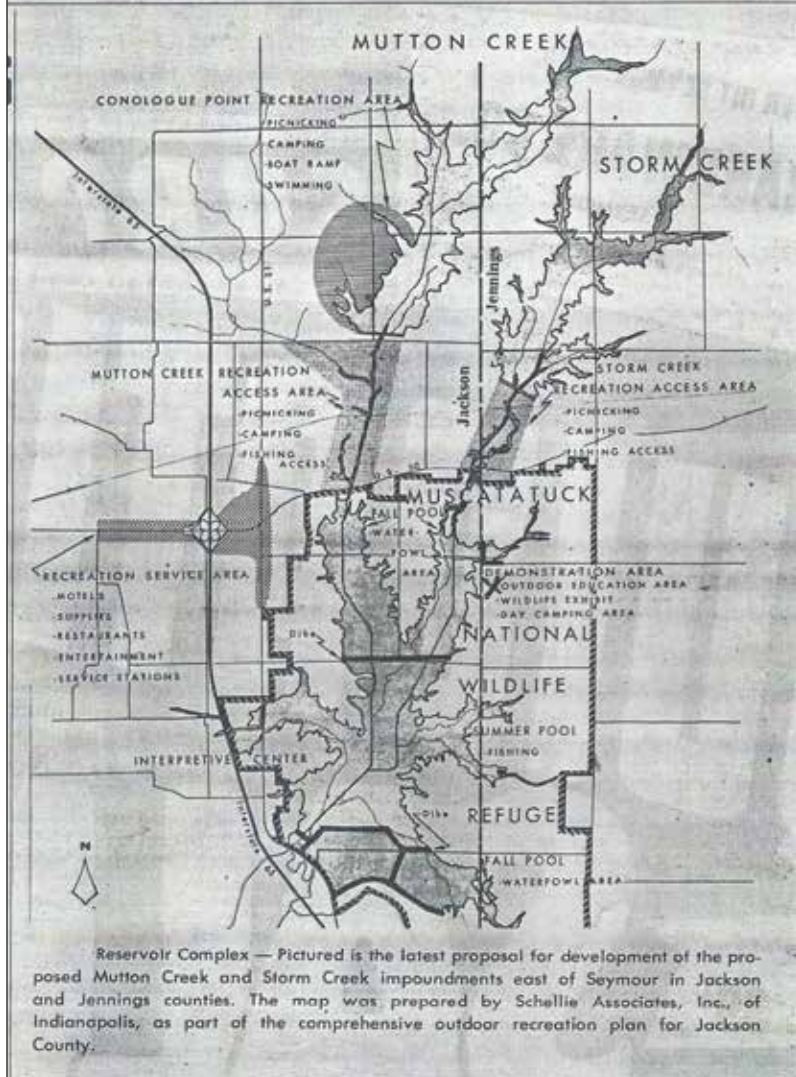
McDonald Family

R DAILY TRIBUNE

SEYMOUR, INDIANA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1969

5



Newspaper clipping, Seymour Daily Tribune, October 16, 1969

Land Owners During Acquisition Period of Refuge

- 61 Arnold Otte
- 62 Robert V. Hirtzel
- 63 Willis Noelker, et. al.
- 68 John D. Mascher
- 69 Charles B. Thomas
- 70 Everett Meyer
- 71 Donald E. Wade, et. al.
- 72 Joseph N. Able
- 73 Robert Lee Rigsby
- 74 Bonnie O. Fox
- 75 Martha Motsinger
- 76 Russell R. Bell
- 77 William H. Prather
- 79 Carl Kriete
- 81 Jean Hall
- 82 Orville Banks
- 83 Seymour Mfg. Co. Inc.
- 84 Clarence H. Kretzer
- 85 Noble A. Myers
- 86 Walter Findley
- 87 Mary Ann Lucas
- 88 Ada Myers
- 89 Ruth Ferguson
- 90 Claude Jaynes

Memories from Ellen Evelyn Mahoney-Banks.

"My grandparents, Daniel Webster and Amanda Mahoney purchased a 40-acre farm and house."

"I attended the Jackson County Consolidated School. Noble Myers, Robert Stanfield, Mae Barkman and I rode an old school hack pulled by a pair of mules."

"On the way we had to cross Mutton Creek and Storm Creek."

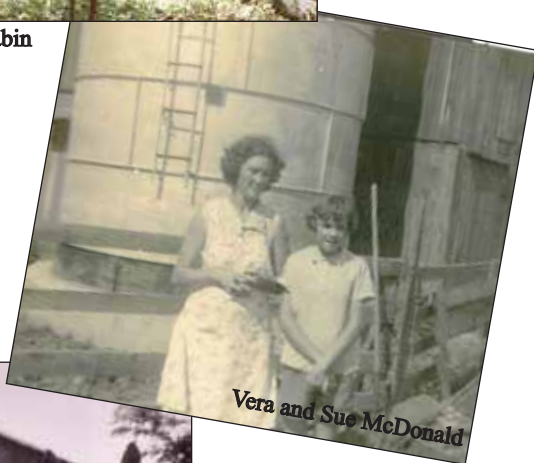
"If the weather had been bad and the water was up we had to climb up and stand on the seats of the hack and hold our books to keep dry...If the water was too deep and the mules had to swim, we couldn't go that way."



Carl Myers with cousins



Henry Stanfield Cabin



Vera and Sue McDonald



Donald McDonald with Bird and Bill

Land Owners During Acquisition Period of Refuge

- 91 Otis Large
- 92 Frank Juette
- 93 Frank Matney
- 94 John W. Graves
- 95 Martha G. Anderson
- 96 William Juett
- 97 Sherril Deputy, et. al.
- 100 Claude Ingram
- 101 Hurna Rafferty
- 102 Otis H. Ruddick
- 103 Richard H. Ruddick
- 104 Leo A. Richart
- 105 Paul Richart
- 106 Charles Maschino
- 107 Henry F. Voelksen
- 108 Rebecca Brooks
- 109 Lucille Sandage, et. al.
- 110 Gilbert V. Maschino
- 111 Harold Vaughn
- 112 Collin Miller
- 113 Marshall P. Burcham
- 114 Raymond W. Baurle
- 115 George A. Kasting

Burbs about Mr. and Mrs. Louis Richart, married April 10, 1866.

"To chronicle the life of Mr. and Mrs. Richart is to record the development of this community."

"After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Richart, they went to housekeeping on the Richart farm which contained about 80 acres... It was then located in the center of an unbroken wilderness. Rough and winding paths among the trees were the only roads."

"The farm which was originally staked out as a government claim by George Richart, was covered with immense trees."

"Mr. Richart realizing the need of better roads interested the farmers along the route in building one and they began the work of widening the path through the forest."

"Mr. Richart was a shrewd businessman as well as an energetic and successful farmer. ...he bought additional land until he held title to about 1,200 acres located in Jackson and Jennings county."



Otis Ruddick homestead, February 1964



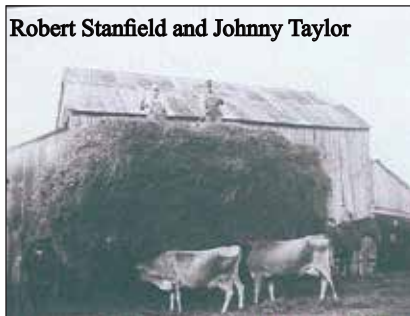
Myers Orchard



Robert and Pauline Stanfield Homestead

Land Owners During Acquisition Period of Refuge

- 116 Otto Trilling
- 117 Henry Maschino
- 118 Steve Vaughn
- 119 Joe Turner
- 120 Alpha P. Speckner
- 121 Donald B. Spaulding
- 122 Kenneth Mousa
- 123 Mary L. Speckner
- 124 Basil Stout
- 125 Alfred Trilling
- 126 Thurstle Minton
- 127 Pearl M. Noblitt
- 128 William Lance
- 129 David R. Stanfield
- 130 Royce Oexman
- 132 Larry E. Stanfield
- 133 Billy W. and Bette Moss
- 136 Orvil Williams
- 137 Rodger Beavers



Approval and Establishment

What follows is summarized from the written notes of H.E. (Mac) McReynolds received 5/19/1995, concerning the “founding” of the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge.

Harold McReynolds (Mac) was a Fisheries Biologist for the Indiana Department of Conservation (precursor of the Department of Natural Resources) in 1956.



McReynolds

One late afternoon, he and a coworker left Indianapolis and headed toward Scottsburg on a business trip.

There was no interstate in those days; Highway 31 was the main route in Indiana. The men stopped for the night at the Trimpe Cabins - a home just south of the junction of Highway 31 and Highway 50. On the property, there were several small tourist cabins, along with a small store and a gasoline service station. The store had a lunch counter, stools and a shopkeeper, Sally Trimpe. Sally supplied sandwiches and drinks to customers.

While the men were eating dinner at the store, the subject of duck hunting came up. Sally mentioned that her brother hunted ducks quite often at Moss Lake. Mac had studied the fisheries resources of the Muscatatuck River area extensively and thought he knew the area, but had never heard of Moss Lake. He quizzed Sally about how to get to the area.

The next morning the men continued on to Scottsburg, but Mac resolved to check out Moss Lake at some point.

Approval and Establishment

The next week, Mac and his closest friend, Charles Scheffe, a Land Acquisition Specialist with the Indiana Department of Conservation, got together.



Scheffe

Mac told Charley about the Moss Lake conversation and they decided to meet in Seymour to check it out. When they got to Seymour, there had been heavy rain and the men decided it was too wet to walk into the swamp. As they looked at the area, Soil Conservation Service personnel were there ditching the bottoms for the installation of drainage tile.

Soon after that, Charley tried unsuccessfully to get his director interested in the Moss Lake area as a site for a state waterfowl area.

The state felt that only token numbers of waterfowl (except for wood ducks) would be drawn to the area since it was too far east, as the main concentrations of waterfowl migrated along the western edge of Indiana.



Approval and Establishment

Years passed and both Mac and Charley moved on to other jobs. Mac went to the U.S. Forest Service and Charley to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 3 Regional Office. Charley's job there was as a Realty Specialist.

When the push started for a National Wildlife Refuge in Indiana, Charley became involved.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's interest was in a lower Wabash River tract in Vigo County, until agricultural opposition became so heated that a public hearing at Terre Haute ended in an egg-throwing melee. The Service decided to drop the proposal in Vigo County, and Charley suggested another area - Moss Lake in southeastern Indiana.

The Fish and Wildlife Service directors were not enthusiastic about the area. The directors, much like the state directors, felt the area was too far east to attract much waterfowl.

Charlie worked for a number of years with little FWS support for the project, as there were many other priorities.



Approval and Establishment

Another story told by Dan Fleming about the beginnings of the Refuge involves Dan's father, Woody Fleming.

Woody was the director of Fish and Game (now the Division of Fish and Wildlife) for the Indiana Department of Conservation in the 1960's.



Fleming

Woody was dedicated to habitat preservation and when he heard of the proposal to establish a national wildlife refuge in southern Indiana, he tried to help form a partnership between the State and the Fish and Wildlife Service on the project. This eventually developed into a visit of inspection by personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Washington, D.C. office.

On a cold gray winter day, a somewhat disgruntled Fish and Wildlife Service “budgeteer” arrived in Indianapolis. Woody met him at the airport and took him on a nearly two-hour journey down U.S. Highway 31 to see the Moss Lake swamp.



Approval and Establishment

Woody did the best he could to explain how the purchase of the land would benefit the state and the migratory bird population, but it was apparent to Woody that the man saw only a swamp and had little incentive to help.

On the way back to Indianapolis it started to snow, diminishing travel conditions considerably. Since there was plenty of time before the man had to catch his plane, Woody invited the man to stop by his home, which was just off Highway 31 in Columbus, for refreshments and to let the weather clear. The weary man agreed, and at Woody's home he found a warm fire in the living room and a plate of freshly made chocolate chip cookies provided by Woody's wife. Woody said with each cookie the man seemed happier.

When the weather cleared they drove back to Indianapolis. After some time of no conversation the man eventually said... "Woody, I think we can help".

The Fleming family firmly believes it was the chocolate chip cookies that changed the Washington official's mind about Muscatatuck.



Approval and Establishment



Eventually, Charley Scheffe went to the people of Indiana Conservation clubs, the Indiana Wildlife Federation and many other groups to lobby for the new refuge. When people got involved, that strategy worked...and the Fish and Wildlife Service came through with the proposal to establish the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge.

A host of meetings and public hearings were held over several years, and on June 7, 1966, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission approved the refuge proposal and allowed land to be purchased with Federal Duck Stamp money. The combination of contributions from sportsmen and local support are the reason Muscatatuck is here.

A Look Back...

1966- Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge established.

1967- First full year of operation. Temporary office was established at Seymour Post Office. One waterfowl, a male wood duck, was seen on the property.



Wood Duck Display Pond

1968- The first pond was built at just over two acres. Display Pond and trail were built and around 20 deer were spotted on the refuge.

1969- The Wood Duck Trail nesting boxes were installed.

1970- One thousand acres were opened to hunting. Completed trail extension by the Display Pond (called Wood Duck- different than present). Woodcock Marsh/Pond and Mini-Marsh were finished. Thirty coveys of quail were noted.



1971- Lake Linda was finished and 5,000 trees were planted by volunteers.

1972- Land acquisition was finished. The office was moved into the former Paul Richart home. A shop was built on the former Pfaffenberger

farm. The first Boy Scout Jamboree was held. Boardwalk was built across Mallard Pond.

1973- Boy Scout Jamboree was held on Refuge.

1974- YCC was present, first turkey sighting. First Christmas Bird Count was held.



A Look Back

1975- Loop road for the Visitor Center was built.

1976- Visitor Center was constructed and the last original buildings were removed. YCC worked on Myers Cabin restoration. About 50 ponds were present. The Visitor Center trail was finished. Paved entrance road was finished and Refuge was open to year-round fishing.

1977- Extremely cold winter killed waterfowl.

1978- YACC present. Another very bad winter killed birds.

1979- Richart and Stanfield Lake construction began.

Archeological survey revealed significant sites and one



became a site on the National Register of Historic Places. State introduced 10 turkeys. National Hunting and Fishing day program was held on the refuge.

1980- Richart and Stanfield lakes were opened and stocked.

1981- Moss Lake and Endicott Marsh were completed. First beaver sighted.

1982- YACC ended. First volunteer staffed Visitor Center on some weekends.

1983- First deer hunt was held in December. Ten moist soil units, three green tree units, and three lakes were present.

1984- Closed area established on 800 acres. Visitor Center was open on part time basis.

A Look Back...

1985- Hackman Overlook was built. Another archeological site added to national register. 95,000 visitors registered.

1986- Four thousand trees were planted by Scouts. Visitor Center kiosk completed. Four hundred hours were donated by 130 volunteers.

1987- Acid Seep Spring was designated a Research Natural Area. Take Pride in America Award was given to local Girl Scouts for tree planting project. Stanfield boat ramp was built. First computer present at office.



1988- Entrance fees began. Visitor Center renamed Charles E. Scheffe Visitor Center. Chestnut Ridge Trail was interpreted with markers and leaflet. Active heron rookery found in Moss Lake area.

1989- Muscatatuck Wildlife Society was formed. Chestnut Ridge Trail became wheelchair accessible via Boy Scout project. Volunteers started regular hours in Visitor Center. Self-guided auto tour opened. Fee program ended.



1990- Anti-hunting demonstration was held. First volunteer recognition picnic was held.

1991- Twenty-fifth anniversary celebration was held at Visitor Center. Volksmarch was held. Turkey Trail opened.

A Look Back...

1992- Large Kid's Fishing Event began.

First Volunteer of the Year was Bill Corning. Restle Unit dedicated.

Fishing piers built at Stanfield Lake and Lake Linda.

1993- Bird window installed. Backyard Wildlife Habitat open at Visitor Center.

1994- New road bridges were built

1995- River otters were released.

McDonald Marsh construction began. Construction of 10' x 47' addition to the Visitor Center began by volunteers. Myers Cabin renovation began. Refuge newsletter started. Junior Duck Stamp Contest began. First Conservation Field Days were held.



1996- New Maintenance building opened.

Visitor Center expansion was finished. Myers Cabin renovation was finished and dedicated on the first

Log Cabin Day. McDonald Marsh was dedicated.

1997- Muscatatuck staff assisted in managing Jefferson Proving Ground. Muscatatuck Wildlife Society began planning for a Conservation Learning Center. Observation deck was built on Restle Unit by volunteers.

A Look Back...

1998- Refuge named “Continently Important Bird Area”. Visitor Center bookstore was remodeled. MWS began MWS Foundation to build the Conservation Learning Center.

1999- Trumpeter swan reintroduction program attempted. Sidewalk for fishing access was built by Job Corps at Sandhill Pond. “Spring Fling” became “Wings Over Muscatatuck” bird festival.



2000- Endicott Deck was built by volunteers. Big Oaks was established as a separate refuge.

Photo by: Mark Trabue



2001- Bald eagle pair built an unsuccessful nest.

2002- Whooping cranes in Operation Migration stopped at refuge.

Successful bald eagles began nesting.

2003- New boardwalk built on Chestnut Ridge Trail from recycled lumber. Centennial was celebrated with time capsule. Construction began on the

Conservation Learning Center. Turn lanes added on Highway 50.

2004- CLC dedicated. Fourteen thousand tree seedlings were planted.

2005- Restrooms built at Persimmon Pond and Stanfield Lake. First turkey hunt offered.

A Look Back...

2006- Visitor Center trail was paved. First squirrel season. Conservation Learning Center was renamed for Jim Roberts.

2007- Refuge started Comprehensive Conservation Planning (CCP). First Master Naturalist Class was held. Fortieth anniversary celebration was held.

2008- New Visitor Center exhibits and rain garden were installed. Wild whooping cranes visited.



2009- Visitor Center courtyard was covered with roof. CCP finished.

2010- Refuge participates in national visitor survey.

2011- Muscatatuck Photo Club (formed in 70's) disbands. Junior Master Naturalist Course began. Interior Secretary Salazar visits.

2012- Refuge website created. Moss Lake Restoration began.

2013- Record number of sandhill cranes visited. Nature Time program for pre-schoolers began. Farming discontinued

2014- Nature Discovery Area opened. MWS celebrated 25th anniversary.

2015- Discovery Pond fishing pier and sidewalk finished. Indiana Master Naturalist Convention held at the Refuge.

2016- *Refuge participated in Indiana bicentennial projects and celebrated a 50th anniversary!*





Early Staff...

Charles Scheffe was the first refuge manager and arrived in July of 1966. Charley was familiar with the area and the people who lived here, since he helped acquire the land while he was working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 3 office in Minnesota.

He was a great people person who provided recreational opportunities for people at Muscatatuck that led to widespread public support. Charlie retired from federal service in 1984. In 1988, the Refuge Visitor Center was named in his honor.

Until poor health slowed him down, Charley continued to spend much time on the Refuge, surveying the wildlife, talking to visitors, and “running the roads” (making sure people were out before the gates closed).

Charley died in July of 1991, the 25th anniversary of the refuge. At his memorial service, it was said that he loved the refuge as if it was one of his children.



During his time at the refuge, he considered it a personal responsibility to take care of it. He was at the refuge on work days, weekends, evenings, and holidays.

Lois Scheffe, Charley’s wife, recalled his persistence. “*My husband was an impatient man.*” He scrounged around, found an old tractor and a blade and started building the first refuge ponds with the help of employee Ed Wagner.

A former president of the National Wildlife Federation once wrote Charley and said, “*You sometimes swam across the currents of administrative tradition to make things happen a little sooner than they might have otherwise.*”

Early Staff...

The first Refuge Office was in the Seymour Federal Building/Post Office. In the first year, the only other employee besides Charles Scheffe was Kathleen Parks, the refuge Clerk. The first six months of operation were spent primarily assisting realty personnel with the acquisition of land and the sale of surplus buildings on acquired tracts. By the end of the year, realty had acquired, or had under option to purchase, approximately 2,000 acres.



Kathleen Parks, seated, poses with, from left, Charles Scheffe and Ed Wagner.

The next year Ed Wagner came to the refuge as a Biological Aide. A wildlife trail and Display Pond were then constructed. A flock of 21 Canada geese from Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota were brought in to inhabit the Display Pond. By the end of that year, 4,000 acres had been acquired.

By 1969, Green Thumb employees were working at Muscatatuck. The senior citizens work program, later renamed Experience Works, provided a tremendous amount of employees and maintenance help to the refuge over the years.

Employees Through the Years...

Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge is a great place to work, and because of that, there has been little turnover in permanent staff since 1966. There have only been four Refuge Managers: Charles Scheffe, Lee Herzberger, Marc Webber and Alejandro Galvan. A list of permanent staff with photos (if available) follows:



Charles Scheffe
1967-1984, Refuge Manager



Kathleen Parks
1967-1971, Refuge Clerk



Ed Wagner, 1968-1983
Biological Technician/Outdoor Recreation Planner



Robert Nagel, 1971-1974
Assistant Refuge Manager



Mollie McCarty, 1971-1972
Refuge Clerk

Employees Through the Years...



Pattie Thompson, 1973-1974
Refuge Clerk



D. Thomas Sporre, 1973-1974
Biological Aide



Leroy Hovell, 1974-1983
Assistant Refuge Manager

Photo
Not
Available

Teresa Hamilton, 1974-1975
Refuge Clerk



Linda Maglothin, 1976-1980
Clerk Stenographer/Refuge Clerk



James M. Nissen, 1977-1978
Refuge Manager Trainee

Employees Through the Years...



Larry Pagel, 1978-2004
Maintenance Worker



Dwight Chamberlain, 1978
Wildlife Aide



Jeffrey Ulrich, 1979-1980
Assistant Refuge Manager

Photo
Not
Available

John Boles, 1979-1981
YACC Group Leader

Photo
Not
Available

Carol Teipen, 1980-1981
Secretary

Photo
Not
Available

Michael Willey, 1980
Biological Technician

Employees Through the Years...



Immanuel Johnson, 1981-1983
Assistant Refuge Manager



Wanda Lakins, 1982-1988
Secretary



Marlin Whittington, 1982-1986
Maintenance Worker



Lee Herzberger, 1983-2004
Refuge Manager



Donna Stanley, 1983-present
Outdoor Recreation Planner/Park Ranger



Robert Berger, 1983-1991
Assistant Refuge Manager

Employees Through the Years...



Roger Blasdel, 1988-2004
Secretary/Administrative Technician



Lawrence Lafferty, 1988
Tractor Operator



Susan Knowles, 1992-present
Refuge Operations Specialist/WRS
Private Lands Biologist



Mike Oliver, 1998-2005
Wildlife Biologist



Craig Adkins, 1990-2001
Tractor Operator



Dan Wood, 2007-2015
Wildlife Biologist
Refuge Operations Specialist

Employees Through the Years...



Jonathan Horn, 2009-2011
Maintenance Mechanic



Andrew Houze, 2011-present
Maintenance Mechanic



Travis Robinson, 2006-2007
Park Ranger (LE)



Frank Polyak, 2008-present
Refuge Officer



Fredrick Pike, 2001-2009
Maintenance Mechanic/Tractor Operator



Theresa Dailey, 2005-2007
Biological Science Technician

Employees Through the Years...



Mark Rarey, 2004-present
Refuge Support Assistant



Mark Webber, 2005-2010
Refuge Manager



Alejandro Galvan, 2010-present
Refuge Manager



Shane Baxter, 2015-present
Wildlife Refuge Specialist



Emily Hodapp, 2015-present
Intermittent Park Ranger

Employees Through the Years...



Employees Through the Years...



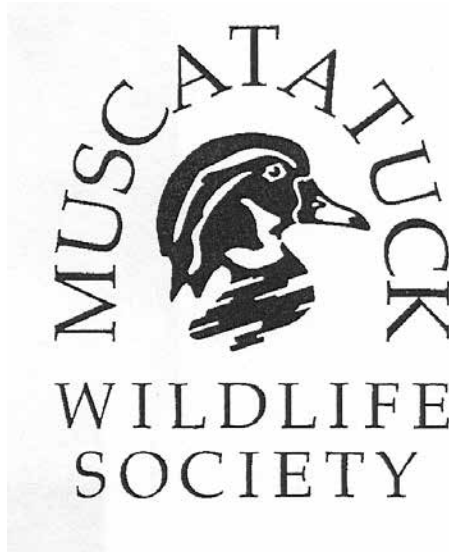
Employees Through the Years...



Employees Through the Years...



Muscatatuck Wildlife Society



The Muscatatuck Wildlife Society was formed in 1989 as a non-profit support group for the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge.

The purpose of the 501C(3) group is to improve the natural and cultural resource of the refuge and to connect people of all ages with nature and history by providing education, outreach, and wildlife recreational opportunities. The group operates a nature bookstore in the Visitor Center that is said to be the best nature bookstore in Indiana.



Muscatatuck Wildlife Society

The society is governed by a 7 member board of directors and is an all volunteer, membership organization. Members of the society pay dues and receive the Duck Tales newsletter several times a year, plus a 10% discount on all bookstore merchandise.



Charter members of MWS who started the group in 1989 were: All Thumbs Garden Club, Norma J. Barnett, Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Cartmel, Mark and Margaret Hacker, Bill and Barbara Corning, Roland

and Sheryl Corning, Dr. Robert Deitch, Myron L. Frank, Terry Grindlay, Skip Chandler, Art Jeffries, Judith Kleeman, William McGill, James Wells, Jack McNutt, Sue Owens, Mr. and Mrs. Bryce King, Darrell and Karen Ritchie, Greg and Clare Oskay, Jeff and Linda Taylor, Marcia Walker, the Dave McNabb Family, Alton and Janet Wilson, and Donna Stanley.

The first president of MWS was Terry Grindlay of Seymour, a dedicated conservationist who was also very involved in Ducks Unlimited. Jack McNutt of Nineveh was the first vice-president and also founded the Atterbury Wildlife Society.



Myers Cabin Ribbon Cutting

Muscatatuck Wildlife Society



The first treasurer of the group was Dave McNabb, an artist for Dickson's of Seymour who is also a talented decoy carver. Dave remained active in the group for many years and served as president. Dave took some years off for family

activities, but currently is back on the board during this anniversary year.

Bill and Barbara Corning of Versailles were at-large members of the first board, and served as Visitor Center volunteer staff, as well as being active with the Historic Hoosier Hills RC & D.

Grey Oskay from Indianapolis was also on the first board serving as an at-large member. Grey was a surveyor and landscaper who was active with Amos Butler Audubon Society.



Columbus native Marcia Walker, already a reporter and photographer, was the first secretary and business manager. She also managed the first bookstore, which consisted of approximately five shelves in an office area of the Visitor Center. The small store didn't last long; Maxine Wolfal started managing the store in 1999, after Marcia retired, and was primarily responsible for making it the best nature bookstore in Indiana.

Muscatatuck Wildlife Society

The MWS has completed or paid for many projects for the refuge over the years. A few of those projects include:

- * Getting refuge signs along Interstate 65 (which was said to be an impossible feat)
- * Installing and monitoring a bluebird trail on the refuge.
- * Funding copper-bellied water snake research
- * Helping fund the construction of McDonald Marsh
- * Financially supporting the Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest
- * Providing support and volunteers for refuge events
- * Restoring and maintaining Myers Cabin and Barn
- * Installing a wildlife viewing area and bird room at the Visitor Center
- * Adding on to the back of the Visitor Center
- * Creating wildflower meadows and a rain garden at the Visitor Center
- * Creating a Nature Discovery Area for children
- * Building fishing piers and observation decks
- * Building sign kiosks
- * Mowing hiking trails
- * Sponsoring special events
- * Paying for the planting of hardwood trees to reduce forest fragmentation



Muscatatuck Wildlife Society

- * Buying Visitor Center equipment/computers
- * Buying/installing a Raven bird sound exhibit in the Visitor Center
- * Installing bird microphones outside the Visitor Center
- * Launching the MWS foundation to build the Conservation Learning Center wing of the Visitor Center
- * Doing native seed planting at the Endicott grassland
- * Funding salamander and acid seep spring studies
- * Buying recycled lumber for the Visitor Center boardwalk
- * Sponsoring Nature Time pre-school programs and Family Fishing workshops.

MWS has been a terrific support group for Muscatatuck and gives more help to refuge operations each year.

The Muscatatuck Wildlife Society Foundation was established by MWS in 1998 to build an educational addition to the Visitor Center. The Foundation had its own governing board and members were very successful in fundraising efforts. Groundbreaking for the addition took place in 2003 and was completed in 2004.

Foundation President Jim Roberts worked especially hard on the project and the auditorium was named in his honor. Long time foundation members included Marty Winslow, Jim Fouts, Susan Montgomery, Dick Shrake, Deryk Baurle, Jim Noelker and Jim Bowen.



Muscatatuck Wildlife Society

Current Muscatatuck Wildlife Society Board Members are: Linda Sullivan, president; Ed Kellar, vice president; Sally Crouch, secretary; Dick Shrake, treasurer; Nancy Foxworthy, Jane Hays and Dave McNabb.



Yearly events held at the Refuge with the help of the Wildlife Society include:

January 1 – Annual Christmas Bird Count

February – Bird Jackson County

March/April – Indiana Master Naturalist Class

March – Wetland Day

April – Family Fishing Workshop and Earth Day Cleanup

May – May Day Bird Count and Wings Over Muscatatuck

Migratory Bird Festival

June – Take a Kid Fishing Day

July – Butterfly Count

July – Junior Master Naturalist Class

September – National Public Lands Day Cleanup

October – Log Cabin Day, Big Sit Bird Count and National Wildlife Refuge Week

November – Bookstore Open House



“Nature Time” pre-school class is held monthly as well as guided bird walks.

Volunteers



James Nesbit Endicott moved to the area in 1941 with his wife and family, where he started his own business, Endicott's Men's Apparel and Sporting Goods, located at 210 West Second Street. He met many local citizens who shared his outdoor interests and were not only his customers, but became his friends as well.

He became president of the Dudleytown Conservation Club, was elected chairman of the 12th Advisory Council District, then president to the Indiana Conservation Council Inc. and oversaw 800 conservation clubs statewide.



The Jackson/Jennings County site was recommended as a wildlife refuge to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1959 by the Indiana Conservation Council.

Volunteers

In 1965, as president of the Seymour Chamber of Commerce, Jim introduced a Wildlife Refuge proposal to the community. He organized significant local support for the federal funding of the Muscatatuck Wildlife Refuge, networking with his friends and service organizations throughout

the surrounding counties. A letter writing campaign was initiated and advice was sought from the wildlife service, most prominently Charles Scheffe. The Refuge proposal was funded and construction officially began in 1966.



Jim pictured with Scheffe, at left.

After his accidental death in 1973, an inscribed plaque was dedicated by the Dudlyetown Conservation Club, describing him as the “Father of the Refuge.” Placed near the Endicott Marsh, it is a symbol of our wildlife heritage for our community and its future generations.



Grandson Jay at Muscatatuck



Family members pose at Endicott Marsh

Volunteers

Mark and Maxine Wolfal started volunteering at Muscatatuck around 1993 when they lived south of Columbus.

Mark worked for the phone company, but was very interested in historic preservation.

Mark and his phone company friends, Phil McClure and Dick Shrake,



had the same interests and offered to help restore Myers Barn.

The three men were very good at construction and installed the first bird viewing window in the wall of the Visitor Center.

They also restored the back corner of Myers Barn, rebuilt the corn crib and fenced the front of the barn per Regional Office directive.

After finishing the barn in 1995, they built onto the Visitor Center. A 10' x 40' addition was added to the back, expanding bookstore and creating a bird viewing room.

Later that year, they started restoration of Myers Cabin, doing the work with the same kind of tools the original builders used. They even made the shakes for the roof out of wood.

Volunteers

The “three guys construction company” built fishing piers, the Endicott Overlook structure, installed interpretive signs, and created the entrance three-panel sign kiosk. They restored gravestones in both Barkman and Myers Cemeteries. They built exhibits for the Visitor Center, put up and monitored trail cameras, and remodeled the bookstore several times.



Mark was an amateur archaeologist and did survey work for the refuge free of charge. He had donated almost 10,000 hours of volunteer time when he passed away in 2007. Mark also served on the Muscatatuck Wildlife Society board briefly.

When Mark volunteered, Maxine did as well. She volunteered at the Visitor Center, and soon became the Bookstore Manager. She is the person who built the store into what it is today. Maxine is now a champion volunteer with well over 10,000 hours of donated time. The Wolfal's daughter, Lori Kendrick, volunteered doing kids programs on the refuge. She also ran the Hayden Elementary Refuge Rangers program for several years. The Wolfal family made a family affair of their volunteering!



Volunteers

Volunteers donate approximately 10,000 hours a year to Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge and make the refuge a better place for wildlife and people.



The volunteer program started small, with mostly Boy Scouts and Conservation Club people, but took off in the 1980s when the Visitor Center opened on a regular basis.



Boy Scouts, working on Eagle projects, have greatly contributed to the facilities over the years and have accomplished over 40 projects on the refuge to date - everything from sign structures and

restroom facilities to accessible hiking trails and old dump cleanups.

Boy and Girl Scout groups have also planted thousands of trees on the refuge. Girl Scouts have accomplished history projects, invasive plant removal, landscaping and hiking trail work, and many other service projects.

Volunteers

A variety of civic groups, including Day of Caring volunteers, Cummins Engine Company groups, and Lions Clubs, have worked at the refuge, along with church groups, school and home-school groups, and 4-H members.

Muscatatuck, like most national wildlife refuges, has always been short-staffed on maintenance help and the assistance from groups has been tremendous.



The first Visitor Center volunteer who worked on a regular basis was Leroy Paugh, a retired Seymour store manager, who started in 1989. One volunteer attracted more and soon Bill and Barbara Corning from Versailles joined in. After

that, volunteers started working during the week, and now the Visitor Center is staffed daily when refuge staff are working.

Volunteers have also worked on many other refuge projects including old fence removal, invasive species removal, carpentry work, mowing and trail maintenance, computer work, landscaping, and seed collecting.

Volunteers

More recently, traveling volunteers who live in RVs have been spending summers at the refuge, helping staff the Visitor Center and contribute to other projects.



There are endless opportunities to help the refuge as a volunteer. They greatly improve the refuge both for wildlife and people. Volunteers have been making Muscatatuck a better place for a long time, and more are always needed.

The Youth Conservation Corps is a summer work program for high school students. Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge held the first YCC camp around 1974 and has hosted YCC groups most years since then.

The program has involved hundreds of students over the years who have accomplished great work on the refuge while learning about wildlife and conservation.

Many of the YCC students went on to conservation careers after their time at Muscatatuck and work in places like the U.S. Forest Service, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and state parks.

Volunteers

A Young Adult Conservation Corps, a non-resident work program for young adults beyond high school age, was based at Muscatatuck from 1978 to 1982.

The adult conservation corps was a work program for young adults beyond high school age.

The YACCers accomplished a great deal of work on Muscatatuck. There is still a building in the refuge maintenance area that they built, and is now used as a Law Enforcement Office.

Volunteer interns, mostly college students, have been coming to Muscatatuck since 2000. They have done a great deal of biological field work on the refuge in the areas of bird surveys, invasive species monitoring and removal, plant inventories, water depth surveys and mammal, reptile and amphibian surveys.

Most interns work just one summer but some, like Miranda Whitnack worked three seasons. Josh Miller donated a year of his time.



Volunteers



Green Thumb/Experience Works volunteers are senior citizens paid by the state to work in various public places in Indiana while receiving job training. Green Thumb has been part of Muscatatuck for over 40 years.

Many Green Thumb employees, like “Hoke” Baurle and “Webb” Jaynes, worked here for decades. The refuge currently has two Experience Works employees working in Maintenance and their help means the grass remains mowed and various other tasks are completed throughout the property.

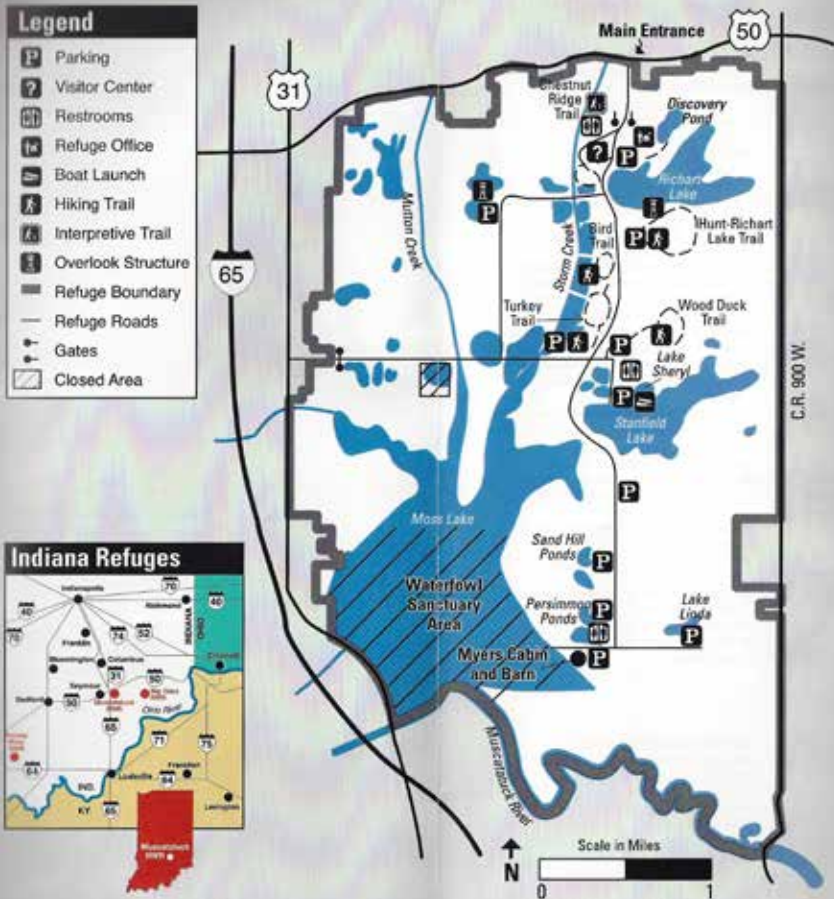


Jaynes, Baurle and Norman Click

Volunteers



Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge Today



A Look Inside

A Look Inside

The Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge today is quite different than in the days of Charles Scheffe. The refuge encompasses 7,724 acres and over 280 species of birds have been



Photo by Nancy Parker

seen. Quite different from 1967, when one male wood duck was recorded. The refuge is recognized as a “Continentially Important” bird area.

Wildlife abounds at Muscatatuck and includes year-long residents

such as white-tailed deer, raccoons, bald eagles and turkey. Swans are sometimes present.

In winter, a variety of ducks can be found as well as birds like tundra swans and bald eagles. Also, sandhill cranes arrive in the late fall and early winter.

Wood ducks, Canada geese, and mallards begin nesting in spring and great egrets even stop by. Migrating warblers pass through in May, usually in time for Wings Over Muscatatuck Migratory Bird Festival.

Bald eagles have been nesting on the refuge since 2002.



A Look Inside

Geese and wood duck broods are common in June. By August, early migrant blue-wing teal arrive and mark the beginning of the fall migration. Ospreys and cormorants appear in the late fall or early winter.

The rare copper-belly water snake also makes it home at the refuge. This snake is common on the refuge, but rare nationwide.



Muscatatuck is also home to river otters, once common in Indiana, but then wiped out because of overtrapping and habitat loss. Muscatatuck was the first site in Indiana where otters were re-introduced.

Muscatatuck is open seven days a week, one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. Nine miles of refuge road, which include a self-guided tour route, are open to visitors year-round.



A Look Inside

Hiking Trails of Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge

CHESTNUT RIDGE TRAIL (0.4 miles)

This trail starts at the Visitor Center parking lot. The upper loop of this trail is paved and wheelchair accessible and has a bench with a great view for relaxing. Stairs lead to a boardwalk which provides a close up look at a natural spring wetland. There are often deer in the area and plenty of tree frogs to serenade travelers in the warm months.



HUNT-RICHART LAKE TRAIL (0.9 miles)- This trail winds through both rich woods and old fields on its way to the Hackman Overlook Structure. Red-tailed hawks and turkey



vultures are often seen soaring high above the open areas in summer. Perching birds of all kinds dart in and out of the old fence rows. The Overlook is a fine vantage point for viewing waterfowl on Richart Lake.



A Look Inside



TURKEY/BIRD TRAILS (1.1 miles and 0.7 miles)- These two loop trails run together for a short time but for a shorter walk stay on Turkey. Turkey trail takes you through a variety of habitats including pine and hardwood forests, old fields, and the flooded timber portion of Moist Soil Unit #3. Northern harriers work the old fields in winter while woodpeckers are busy hammering in the forested areas. Wood ducks, mallards, and other waterfowl enjoy

the offerings of the flooded timber area. Wild turkeys can be found wandering around parts of this trail. Bird trail is a favorite for those who enjoy songbirds. Cardinals and a multitude of other happy whistlers inhabit the pine and hardwood forests. The cattails are an irresistible treat for downy woodpeckers.

WOOD DUCK TRAIL (0.5 miles)- Frankly, there aren't any places to find wood ducks along this trail, although they could nest in the large, cavity-ridden beech trees found in this woods. There are some wonderful old oak trees that were protected by owners of a house that once stood near this trail. Sometimes barred owls hang out in this woods, and the old fields just east of the trail are good places to see northern harriers in the winter.



A Look Inside

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

You are not limited to walking only the maintained walking trails.

There are many old farm roads and lanes that are not maintained but still passable. If you are

feeling adventurous you can get

off the paths and walk through the woods where you may find a hidden pond or stream. Make sure to take your compass or GPS so you don't get lost.



Other Items to Note:

Turkey, squirrel, rabbit, quail and deer hunting are permitted and youth hunts are available for deer and turkey.

Stop by the Visitor Center for hunting season information.



Fishing is permitted in certain areas and the Discovery Pond is a "Youth 15 and Under" pond.

The collection of edible mushrooms, nuts, fruits and berries is for personal use only. All other collecting of plants or parts of plants is prohibited. Bicycling is permitted on gravel/paved roads only. Swimming is not allowed.

A Look Inside

Did You Know?

* Wetlands cover roughly 70% of the refuge and much of this land floods annually.

* The refuge also has more than 70 small ponds and seasonal wetlands; included in that total were ponds constructed by former land owners as stock ponds or ponds near residences.

* About 69% (about 5,400 acres) of the refuge is covered by forest.



* Examples of wildlife that use refuge wetlands include wood ducks and hooded mergansers (which nest in the bottomland hardwoods), American bald eagles, copper-belly watersnake, Indiana bats, and river otter.

* Wildlife that uses the wetland forests includes wood duck, hooded merganser, red-shouldered hawk, red-headed woodpecker, northern flicker, Acadian flycatcher, cerulean warbler, prothonotary warbler, yellow-billed cuckoo, American redstart, Louisiana waterthrush, Kentucky warbler, and wood thrush.

* Grasslands cover about 470 acres of the refuge.

A Look Inside

Did You Know?

* Thirty-seven species of mammals are known to occur on the refuge.

* Forty-four species of reptiles and amphibians, including four state-endangered species have been found.



Cave Salamander

* More than 75 species of fish are known to occur here.

* At least five different species of crayfish occur on the refuge including paintedhand mudbug, Great Plains mudbug, northern crayfish, Sloan's crayfish, and rusty crayfish.

* Thirty-three dragonfly species have been recorded, including the beaverpond baskettail, eastern pondhawk, and shadow darter.

* Sixty species of butterflies have been found on the refuge to date, including the cabbage white, an exotic species.

* At least 24 species of mollusks have been documented, the Asian clam, a non-native invasive species. It is abundant here, especially within the Muscatatuck River.

A Look Inside

The Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge Bookstore is operated by volunteers of the Muscatatuck Wildlife Society.

The bookstore features thousands of wildlife-related books, toys, souvenirs, shirts, hats, finger puppets, field guides, jewelry...the list goes on.



Located in the Visitor Center, the Bookstore is open Tuesday through Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The bookstore also features brochures on hunting and fishing regulations, hiking trails, birds found on the refuge, an auto tour, and information on Muscatatuck's neighboring refuge, Big Oaks.



A Look Inside



Also housed in the Visitor Center is the Interpretive Center. This section of the center is heaven to children interested in wildlife. Several exhibits show wildlife up close and personal and even include sound effects! Kids have a blast in this area and many scouting and school groups visit yearly.



A Look Inside

Myers Cabin was built between 1880 and 1885 of beech logs from the adjacent forest. It was the home of the Louis Myers family. They farmed the river floodplain below the cabin, which is now part of the waterfowl sanctuary.



The cabin was small but met the needs of the family. The living area and parents bedroom were downstairs and the kids slept upstairs. There was a summer kitchen on the back porch, and cooking in the winter was done at the stove inside. Outbuildings included a chicken house, smoke house, bean shed and barn. A garden and well were located nearby.

The cabin was restored by the Muscatatuck Wildlife Society and furnished with items that are similar to what was in the cabin about 1938.



Photos by Lorn Win

A Look Inside

Myers Barn was built around 1907. It is constructed of tulip poplar and held together with wooden pegs.

The barn was used to house livestock, feed and grain.



Photo by Lom Win



Photo by Lom Win

Louis Myers lived on the homestead until his death in 1946. His wife Nancy remained in the cabin until her death in 1948.

Their son Carl was a well-known plant propagator and nurseryman in the county. He discovered and propagated a seedless persimmon tree that he sold state-wide.

A Look Inside



A Nature Discovery Area is located near the Visitor Center overflow parking lot and lets children explore natural objects.

The area consists of natural items only and includes hollow tree trunks, climbing trees, a mini-wetland, a sand pile and log rounds.

Endless possibilities for fun are offered for children at the Discovery Area.

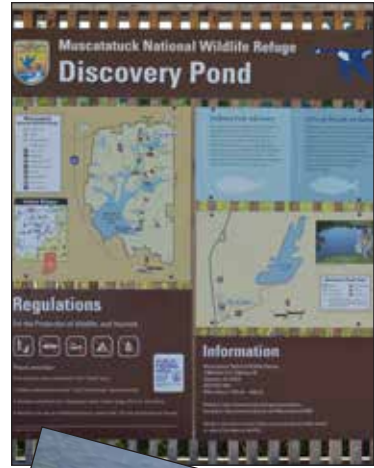


A Look Inside

The Discovery Pond, formerly called the Office Pond, has recently been improved with a paved walk leading the way and a beautiful dock.

The Discovery Pond is reserved for youth under age 15. The pond is open year round. Youth may be accompanied by adults, but they cannot fish.

Remember that only non-toxic sinkers can be used on refuge waters.



50 Things to Do

Hike the Chestnut Ridge Trail

Look for otter signs and try to spy a lively otter.

Learn a bird call for the Wings Over Muscatatuck
Bird Calling Contest

Watch the welcome video in the Visitor Center

Listen to the spring peepers chirping their froggy song

See a sandhill crane

Fish at Lake Linda

Look for a wood duck brood

Find some animal tracks in the snow

View Richart lake from the Hackman Overlook

Go on the third Saturday bird walk at the Visitor Center

Look for beech drops in the woods

Take a child fishing at Discovery Pond

Step inside Myers Cabin to see an early farmer's lifestyle

See the eagle's nest in the closed area



50 Things to Do



Join in a “Big Sit” bird count

Count cardinals at the Visitor Center bird room window

Enjoy a picnic at Myers Cabin

Find the perfect book at the Visitor Center library

Identify five native wildflowers

Watch a deer eat

Attend the Wings Over Muscatatuck Migratory Bird Festival

Help remove an invasive plant species

Find edible mushrooms

Volunteer to help collect milkweed seed for butterflies

Buy a gift at the Visitor Center Nature Store

Photograph the bald cypress trees in the fall

50 Things to Do

Become a member of the Muscatatuck Wildlife Society

Listen to a wood thrush along a hiking trail

Find five different kinds of butterflies

Watch a woodcock sky dance at dusk

Bring someone for their first visit to the refuge

Photograph a Great Blue Heron

See the big trees on the Wood Duck Trail

Watch a copper-bellied Water Snake

Bring a child to the Nature Time pre-school class

Kayak Richart or Stanfield Lake

Find a migrating shorebird

View McDonald Marsh at dawn



50 Things to Do



Try hunting deer, turkey, squirrel or rabbit at the refuge

Visit one of the old cemeteries on the refuge

Look for shed deer antlers

Pick wild blackberries

Find a natural spring on the refuge

Relive your childhood at the Nature Discovery Area

Look for salamanders under a log

Practice using a compass and a map

Do your part to help by picking up trash

Look for eagles along the wetland edges

Celebrate the 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFUGE in 2016!

1966-2016

Memories

“Growing up and living on Muscatatuck NWR was an experience that I did not fully grasp or appreciate until I became an adult. As any child, you live in the moment without recognizing how your experiences will shape your future. As a young volunteer, I was most likely more of a hindrance than a helpful addition on most projects, but nevertheless, the refuge staff always welcomed the extra hands.



From working the deer check station, seining ponds and waterfowl banding to washing refuge vehicles and sweeping the maintenance shop, I enjoyed participating and learning from the staff. In particular, Larry Pagel (Maintenance field) made a lasting impression with his work ethic and “jack of all trades” skillset, which to this day has stuck with me. I most definitely picked up some life lessons along the way and the overall experience cemented my desire to work in the natural resource field. I will always bleed blue.”

- Written by Thad Herzberger; whose father, Lee, served as Refuge Manager from 1983-2004. Pictured with his younger brother Zachary.

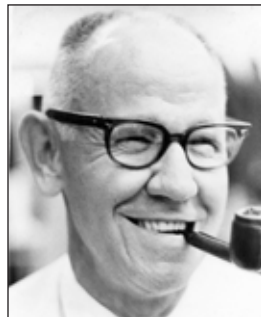
“I remember Charley coming home one afternoon at a run. He asked if I had ever seen a butterfly tree. I answered in the negative, and we jumped in the car heading for the refuge. We found the butterfly tree, where the monarchs were gathering for their migration, and the entire tree was covered with orange and black ‘blossoms.’ I’ll never forget the beauty and peace of that moment with the sun shining on those lovely colored wings.” -

Lois Scheffe

Memories

“Dad wanted generations to come to be able to see the wildlife. That was his inspiration. He was concerned that his kids, grandkids and great-grandkids wouldn’t have a place to go to see wildlife... Anytime I come home, I always make a trip to the refuge and it almost brings tears to my eyes. Dad would be so delighted to see how the refuge is used and all the wildlife that is there.” *Nancy Parker,*

daughter of Jim Endicott



Jim and Cecily Noelker

Jim Noelker’s father, Willis, and Jim Hall owned 265 acres of property located near US Highway 31. A home on the property was rented and Basil Stout farmed the ground for the Noelker’s.

Jim’s memories of the property include helping his dad plow the field on an old Ford tractor and

exploring. In high school, Noelker’s Advanced Biology class, taught by Gordon Reynolds, traveled to the refuge to trap rodents for their dissection units.

Later in life, Jim and his future bride Cecily visited the refuge on dates and drove around the property, even before most of the lakes were finished. Jim’s friend, Ed Wagner, was looking for photos for the new Visitor Center and took this beautiful shot of the couple admiring a pond.

Thank



You

Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge

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www.fws.gov/refuge/muscatatuck

www.facebook.com/muscatatuckwildlifesociety

www.facebook.com/muscatatuckNWR

www.muscatatuck.org

